

**Session I – Climate Change and Challenges to Ecological and Economic Sustainability**

**1:30 PM**

**Semi-Dyke Alternative: An Implication for Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Mekong Delta**

Nguyen Hieu Trung<sup>1</sup>, and Le Anh Tuan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>DRAGON Institute – Mekong, Can Tho University, Can Tho City, Vietnam, Email: [nhtrung@ctu.edu.vn](mailto:nhtrung@ctu.edu.vn)

<sup>2</sup>DRAGON Institute – Mekong, Can Tho University, Can Tho City, Vietnam, Email: [latuan@ctu.edu.vn](mailto:latuan@ctu.edu.vn)

**Abstract**

Dyke embankments are one of the most popular flood management measures in the world in general and in the Mekong Delta in particular. Dyke systems can protect life, crops and property of the people in the floodplain but may also reduce biodiversity and fish resources.

This paper presents the findings of research on current local policies and practices for flood management in two types of dyke systems in the Mekong Delta: the fully protected dyke system (full-dyke) and the partly protected dyke system (semi-dyke). Focus group discussions and individual interviews were conducted in no-dyke, semi-dyke and full-dyke areas. The research tries to answer the questions of (i) how the local people in the different dyke systems adapt to flood; (ii) if the local government's policies and measures meet the people's desires; and (iii) what support the government should provide to local people for flood adaptation. The results show that local people prefer the semi-dyke system to the full-dyke system, provided that housing, transportation and other living conditions are also improved.

In the context of climate change, sea level rise together with upstream rainfall increase, are expected to lead to more serious flood problems for the Mekong Delta. This research has some implications for climate change adaptation strategies in the Mekong Delta.